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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/043,711	01/09/2002	Deeb Daoud	22868.62	7396

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EXAMINER

CONE, DARIUS N

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2854

DATE MAILED: 11/06/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/043,711

Applicant(s)

JONES ET AL.

Examiner

Darius N. Cone

Art Unit

2854

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 January 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Satloff (US pat #5,667,319).

With respect to claims 1 and 2, Satloff teaches a plurality of touch areas, each of the touch areas represent a symbol from a plurality of symbols 21, (see Fig. 1), wherein the touch areas are arranged in at least one of a plurality of groups (21 and 14) each group including at least two of the touch areas, wherein each of the groups includes touch areas that are arranged in a distinctive shape that incorporates one or more of the symbols or part of the symbols, whereby a user enters a symbol by touching a part of a key with the distinctive shape that is recognized with the symbol (see Fig 1, col. 9, lines 38-67).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 3-8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Satloff (US pat #5,667,319) in view of Yang (UK pat # 2 243 704 A).

With respect to claims 3-8, Satloff teaches all that is claimed as discussed above in the rejection of claims 1 and 2 expect for the touch areas being symbols represented by Latin, Hebrew, Arabic, Cyrillic and Greek letters. Yang teaches a method of inputting characters and/or symbols using a keyboard to input ASCII, Greek, Arabic, Japanese and Chinese as well as any other characters or symbols whose structure can be expressed as a combination of patterned elements. It would be obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art at the time of the invention to modify Satloff using Yang's keyboard to not only include symbols but an intuitive, general purpose and flexible method for inputting characters of different languages.

With respect to claim 10, Yang teaches the keyboard device adapted to be received for computers, telephones, gaming machines or any digital system where a keyboard is necessary, making it obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art provide an easy to use, simple, general purpose and light in weight apparatus capable of being operated by individuals using different languages.

5. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Satloff (US pat # 5,667,319) in view of Fischer (US pat # 4,310,753).

With respect to claim 9, Satloff teaches all that is claimed as discussed above in the rejection of claims 1 and 2 expect for a flat plate provided with a grove that is adapted to receive a pointer, wherein symbols are entered using the pointer. Fischer

teaches key 2, provided with a groove to be operated by a finger nail, any optional instrument or pointed operating instrument. It would be obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art at the time of the invention to modify Satloff to include the groove contained within the key so that keyboards of subminiature devices and the like can be simply and accurately depressed.


6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Darius N. Cone whose telephone number is (703) 308-1061. The examiner can normally be reached on 9am - 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Hirshfeld can be reached on (703) 305-6619. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-0725 for regular communications and for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

DNC

November 4, 2002


ANDREW H. HIRSHFELD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800